

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/CH 03/00598

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 G02B6/255

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G02B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, INSPEC, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	<p>WATANABE T ET AL: "CONSIDERATION ON THE HANDLING OF FLEXIBLE, BRITTLE AND CONTINUOUS MEMBER IN FUSION SPLICING ROBOT FOR OPTICAL FIBER RIBBONS"</p> <p>PROCEEDINGS OF THE 1995 IEEE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ROBOTICS AND AUTOMATION. NAGOYA, JAPAN, MAY 21 - 27, 1995, PROCEEDINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ROBOTICS AND AUTOMATION, NEW YORK, IEEE, US, vol. 3, 21 May 1995 (1995-05-21), pages 2413-2419, XP000731598</p> <p>ISBN: 0-7803-1966-4</p> <p>the whole document</p> <p style="text-align: center;">---</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-/--</p>	1-19

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

25 November 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report

03/12/2003

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Cohen, A

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/CH 03/00598

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4 715 876 A (OSAKA KEIJI ET AL) 29 December 1987 (1987-12-29) column 1, line 6 -column 3, line 28 column 4, line 67 -column 5, line 57 column 6, line 65 -column 7, line 9 column 8, line 22 - line 54; figures 7,13	1,2, 8-10,17
X A	US 6 237 370 B1 (BLOOM CARY) 29 May 2001 (2001-05-29) column 8, line 16 -column 9, line 51 column 12, line 56 -column 13, line 60 column 16, line 7 - line 27 column 18, line 28 -column 19, line 67 column 26, line 38 -column 27, line 6 column 30, line 30 - line 36 claims 1,4	1,5,8,9, 12-14 2,6,7, 10,15, 17,19
X A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 012, no. 368 (P-766), 4 October 1988 (1988-10-04) & JP 63 118703 A (NEC CORP;OTHERS: 01), 23 May 1988 (1988-05-23) abstract	1,9 2,7,8, 10,16,17
A	EP 0 899 594 A (SUMITOMO ELECTRIC INDUSTRIES) 3 March 1999 (1999-03-03) paragraph '0017! - paragraph '0043!; figures 1B,2A,2B	6,15
A	WO 91 13837 A (BRITISH TELECOMM) 19 September 1991 (1991-09-19) page 1 -page 11; figures	7,16
A	EP 0 568 113 A (FUJIKURA LTD) 3 November 1993 (1993-11-03) column 1, line 1 -column 10, line 17; figures 1,4,5,10-13	8,17,18
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 011, no. 189 (P-587), 18 June 1987 (1987-06-18) & JP 62 014607 A (NIPPON TELEGR & TELEPH CORP), 23 January 1987 (1987-01-23) abstract	1,9
A	DE 39 06 520 A (SIEMENS AG) 6 September 1990 (1990-09-06) column 1, line 3 -column 7, line 36	1,2, 6-10,15
	-/--	

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/CH 03/00598

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>MATSUMOTO M ET AL: "FULLY AUTOMATIC, HIGH-SPEED FUSION SPLICE MACHINE FOR SINGLE-MODE OPTICAL FIBER RIBBON" EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON OPTICAL COMMUNICATION. (ECOC). HELSINKI, SEPT. 13 - 17, 1987. VOLS. 1 - 3 BOUND AS ONE. SEE ALSO B0153840 AND B0153850, HELSINKI, CPEF, SF, vol. 1 CONF. 13, 1987, pages 155-158, XP000011649 the whole document</p>	1,9

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/CH 03/00598

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 4715876	A	29-12-1987	JP 62003208 A AU 579298 B2 AU 5923686 A CA 1276780 C CN 86104655 A , B DE 3689212 D1 DE 3689212 T2 EP 0211221 A1 KR 9007558 B1	09-01-1987 17-11-1988 12-02-1987 27-11-1990 31-12-1986 02-12-1993 14-04-1994 25-02-1987 15-10-1990
US 6237370	B1	29-05-2001	US 6003341 A US 5871559 A AU 4917197 A EP 0944849 A2 JP 2002514314 T TW 388799 B WO 9826314 A2 US 2001007199 A1 AU 3725197 A AU 4917797 A TW 409188 B WO 9802768 A1 WO 9826317 A1 US 6074101 A US 6000858 A US 5917975 A US 5970749 A AU 3725297 A AU 4415397 A AU 735826 B2 AU 4735597 A EP 0929799 A1 EP 0928432 A2 JP 2000514208 T JP 2001503138 T KR 2000048596 A KR 2000048848 A US 6074104 A WO 9802766 A1 WO 9814766 A1 WO 9813711 A2 US 6244756 B1 US 5971629 A US 6177985 B1	21-12-1999 16-02-1999 03-07-1998 29-09-1999 14-05-2002 01-05-2000 18-06-1998 12-07-2001 09-02-1998 03-07-1998 21-10-2000 22-01-1998 18-06-1998 13-06-2000 14-12-1999 29-06-1999 26-10-1999 09-02-1998 17-04-1998 19-07-2001 24-04-1998 21-07-1999 14-07-1999 24-10-2000 06-03-2001 25-07-2000 25-07-2000 13-06-2000 22-01-1998 09-04-1998 02-04-1998 12-06-2001 26-10-1999 23-01-2001
JP 63118703	A	23-05-1988	NONE	
EP 0899594	A	03-03-1999	JP 3245850 B2 JP 11064646 A AU 732545 B2 AU 8079598 A CN 1209556 A EP 0899594 A2 US 6190057 B1	15-01-2002 05-03-1999 26-04-2001 04-03-1999 03-03-1999 03-03-1999 20-02-2001
WO 9113837	A	19-09-1991	AU 7440291 A WO 9113837 A1	10-10-1991 19-09-1991

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/CH 03/00598

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0568113	A	03-11-1993	JP 1112206 A	28-04-1989
			JP 2007567 C	11-01-1996
			JP 7034046 B	12-04-1995
			JP 1126601 A	18-05-1989
			JP 2049138 C	25-04-1996
			JP 7078563 B	23-08-1995
			EP 0568113 A2	03-11-1993
			DE 3856256 D1	12-11-1998
			DE 3856256 T2	02-06-1999
			DE 3856344 D1	29-07-1999
			DE 3856344 T2	24-02-2000
			DE 3888242 D1	14-04-1994
			DE 3888242 T2	22-09-1994
			EP 0295374 A2	21-12-1988
			EP 0568112 A2	03-11-1993
			US 5024363 A	18-06-1991
			US 5129567 A	14-07-1992
			US 5106006 A	21-04-1992
JP 62014607	A	23-01-1987	NONE	
DE 3906520	A	06-09-1990	DE 3906520 A1	06-09-1990